

Claim 19 (amended):

2. ~~19.~~ The gene delivery vector according to claim ~~18~~ wherein said targeting polypeptide molecule is selected from the group consisting of wheat germ agglutinin, transferrin and nerve growth factor.

Claim 20 (amended):

3. ~~20.~~ The gene delivery vector according to claim ~~18~~ wherein said targeting polypeptide molecule is an antibody or antibody fragment.

Claim 21 (amended):

4. ~~21.~~ The gene delivery vector according to claim ~~18~~ wherein said polymeric coating is a dextran coating.

Claim 22 (amended):

5. ~~22.~~ The gene delivery vector according to claim ~~18~~ wherein said ferrite particles are produced by the preparation of a mixture of ferrous and ferric chloride.

Claim 23 (amended):

6. ~~23.~~ An injectable composition comprising the gene delivery vector according to claim ~~18~~ and a physiologically acceptable diluent.

(2) > Please add the following new claims 24-30:

7. 24. A ferrite particle having a polymeric coating to which a targeting polypeptide molecule and a nucleic acid that is complementary to a nucleic acid of interest are covalently bound.

8. 25. The ferrite particle according to claim 24 wherein said targeting polypeptide molecule is selected from the group consisting of wheat germ agglutinin, transferrin and nerve growth factor.

9. 26. The ferrite particle according to claim 24 wherein said targeting polypeptide molecule is an antibody or antibody fragment.

10. 27. The ferrite particle according to claim 24 wherein said polymeric coating is a dextran coating.

11. 28. The ferrite particle according to claim 24 wherein said ferrite particles are produced by the preparation of a mixture of ferrous and ferric chloride.

12. 29. The ferrite particle according to claim 24, wherein said nucleic acid of interest is bound to said nucleic acid.

13. 30. An injectable composition comprising the ferrite particle according to claim 24 and a physiologically acceptable diluent.